S JS 44 (Rev. 12/07) (cand rev 1-16-08)

# CIVIL COVER SHEET

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil decret sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON PAGE TWO OF THE POPM)

the civil docket sheet (SEE INS	TRUCTIONS ON PAGE T	WO OF THE FORM	1.)		-			. ,		· · ·
I. (a) PLAINTIFFS					DEFENDANTS					
KRISTA O'DONOVAN, an individual					CASHCALL, INC., a California corporation, and DOE 1 through DOE 50, inclusive					
(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff ALAMEDA (EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)					County of Residence of First Lis (IN U.S NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMI LAND INVOLVED.		IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CA NDEMNATION CASES, US	J.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY) MNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE		
(c) Attorney's (Firm Nan	ne, Address, and Telephone	Number)			Attorneys (If Kr	nown)				
James C. Sturdevant, Mor THE STURDEVANT LA 354 Pine Street, Fourth Fl Tel: (415) 477-2410	W FIRM	* *			-				e N	
II. BASIS OF JURISDI	CTION (Place an "X" in O	ne Box Only)	III.				NCIPAL PARTIE			
U.S. Government				(For Diversity Cases Only) and One Box for Defendant)  PTF DEF  Citizen of This State X 1 1 1 Incorporated or Principal Place 4 X 4						
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IV. NATURE OF SUIT	(Place an "X" in One Box Only	······································	ŀ		oreign Country	<u></u>				•
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140 Negotiable Instrument 150 Recovery of Overpayment	Liability	365 Personal Inj	ury —							
& Enforcement of Judgment	320 Assault, Libel & Slander	Product Lial								
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		PETITIO			740 Railway Lab				893 Environment	al Matters
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VIII. RELATED CASE(S) IF ANY	PLEASE REFER	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		ONO	CERNING REQ	UIREME			<u></u> (w)	
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JS 44 Reverse (Rev. 12/07)

#### INSTRUCTIONS FOR ATTORNEYS COMPLETING CIVIL COVER SHEET FORM JS 44

#### Authority For Civil Cover Sheet

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replaces nor supplements the filings and service of pleading or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. Consequently, a civil cover sheet is submitted to the Clerk of Court for each civil complaint filed. The attorney filing a case should complete the form as follows:

- I. (a) Plaintiffs-Defendants. Enter names (last, first, middle initial) of plaintiff and defendant. If the plaintiff or defendant is a government agency, use only the full name or standard abbreviations. If the plaintiff or defendant is an official within a government agency, identify first the agency and then the official, giving both name and title.
- (b) County of Residence. For each civil case filed, except U.S. plaintiff cases, enter the name of the county where the first listed plaintiff resides at the time of filing. In U.S. plaintiff cases, enter the name of the county in which the first listed defendant resides at the time of filing. (NOTE: In land condemnation cases, the county of residence of the "defendant" is the location of the tract of land involved.)
- (c) Attorneys. Enter the firm name, address, telephone number, and attorney of record. If there are several attorneys, list them on an attachment, noting in this section "(see attachment)".
- II. Jurisdiction. The basis of jurisdiction is set forth under Rule 8(a), F.R.C.P., which requires that jurisdictions be shown in pleadings. Place an "X" in one of the boxes. If there is more than one basis of jurisdiction, precedence is given in the order shown below.

United States plaintiff. (1) Jurisdiction based on 28 U.S.C. 1345 and 1348. Suits by agencies and officers of the United States are included here.

United States defendant. (2) When the plaintiff is suing the United States, its officers or agencies, place an "X" in this box.

Federal question. (3) This refers to suits under 28 U.S.C. 1331, where jurisdiction arises under the Constitution of the United States, an amendment to the Constitution, an act of Congress or a treaty of the United States. In cases where the U.S. is a party, the U.S. plaintiff or defendant code takes precedence, and box 1 or 2 should be marked.

Diversity of citizenship. (4) This refers to suits under 28 U.S.C. 1332, where parties are citizens of different states. When Box 4 is checked, the citizenship of the different parties must be checked. (See Section III below; federal question actions take precedence over diversity cases.)

- III. Residence (citizenship) of Principal Parties. This section of the JS 44 is to be completed if diversity of citizenship was indicated above. Mark this section for each principal party.
- IV. Nature of Suit. Place an "X" in the appropriate box. If the nature of suit cannot be determined, be sure the cause of action, in Section VI below, is sufficient to enable the deputy clerk or the statistical clerks in the Administrative Office to determine the nature of suit. If the cause fits more than one nature of suit, select the most definitive.
- V. Origin. Place an "X" in one of the seven boxes.

Original Proceedings. (1) Cases which originate in the United States district courts.

Removed from State Court. (2) Proceedings initiated in state courts may be removed to the district courts under Title 28 U.S.C., Section 1441. When the petition for removal is granted, check this box.

Remanded from Appellate Court. (3) Check this box for cases remanded to the district court for further action. Use the date of remand as the filing date.

Reinstated or Reopened. (4) Check this box for cases reinstated or reopened in the district court. Use the reopening date as the filing date.

Transferred from Another District. (5) For cases transferred under Title 28 U.S.C. Section 1404(a). Do not use this for within district transfers or multidistrict litigation transfers.

Multidistrict Litigation. (6) Check this box when a multidistrict case is transferred into the district under authority of Title 28 U.S.C. Section 1407. When this box is checked, do not check (5) above.

Appeal to District Judge from Magistrate Judgment. (7) Check this box for an appeal from a magistrate judge's decision.

VI. Cause of Action. Report the civil statute directly related to the cause of action and give a brief description of the cause. Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity.

Example: U.S. Civil Statute: 47 USC 553

Brief Description: <u>Unauthorized reception of cable service</u>

VII. Requested in Complaint. Class Action. Place an "X" in this box if you are filing a class action under Rule 23, F.R.Cv.P.

Demand. In this space enter the dollar amount (in thousands of dollars) being demanded or indicate other demand such as a preliminary injunction,

Jury Demand. Check the appropriate box to indicate whether or not a jury is being demanded.

VIII. Related Cases. This section of the JS 44 is used to reference related pending cases if any. If there are related pending cases, insert the docket numbers and the corresponding judge names for such cases.

Date and Attorney Signature. Date and sign the civil cover sheet.

# UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

for the

Northern District of California

KRISTA O'DONOVAN, an individual,	` ·
Plaintiff	
<b>v.</b>	) Civil Action No.
CASHCALL, INC., a California corporation, and DOE	1 through )
DOE 50, inclusive, Defendant	) The A Line
	Summons in a Civil Action 05-filing 3174
	Summons in a Civil Action
To: CASHCALL, INC.	To an armony
(Defendant's name)	
A lawsuit has been filed against you.	
James C. Sturdevant, Monique Olivier, Whi THE STURDEVANT LAW FIRM 354 Pine Street, Fourth Floor, San Francisc Tel: (415) 477-2410	•
If you fail to do so, judgment by default will I must file your answer or motion with the cour	be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint. You also rt.
ž-	Richard W. Wieking
JUL 0 1 2008	Name of clerk of court
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Date:	
	Deputy clerk's signature
	ANNA SPRINKLES

(Use 60 days if the defendant is the United States or a United States agency, or is an officer or employee of the United States allowed 60 days by Rule 12(a)(3).)

## **Proof of Service**

by:		s and complaint in this case on
(1) personally delivering a cop	by of each to the individ	ual at this place,; or
(2) leaving a copy of each at the who resides there and is of		g or usual place of abode with tion; or
(3) delivering a copy of each t  (4) returning the summons und	<u> </u>	y appointment or by law to receive it whose name is ; or erk on .
		for services, for a total of \$
Date:	<u></u>	·
		Server's signature
		Printed name and title
		Server's address

Filed 07/01/2008

Page 1 of 24

Case 3:08-cv-03174-MEJ Document 1-3

COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT, AND UNFAIR COMPETITION LAW

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## INTRODUCTION

1. Plaintiff, Krista O'Donovan, brings this action to challenge the unlawful, unfair, and fraudulent lending practices of CashCall, Inc. ("CashCall"). CashCall makes millions of dollars in unsecured personal loan to consumers every year at exorbitantly high and unconscionable interest rates, as high as 99.25% per year. CashCall's business practice violates numerous consumer protection and debt collection laws. Plaintiff seeks compensatory, statutory, and punitive damages, injunctive relief, and attorney's fees, costs and expenses.

#### JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 2. Jurisdiction is conferred upon this Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. section 1331 in that the claims alleged herein arise under the laws of the United States. This Court has supplemental jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. section 1367 to hear and determine Plaintiff's state law claims because those claims are related to Plaintiff's federal claims and arise out of a common nucleus of operative facts and form part of the same case or controversy under Article III of the United States Constitution.
- This Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendant CashCall, Inc., as it is a California corporation.
- 4. The Court has jurisdiction over Plaintiff's action for declaratory relief pursuant to 28 U.S.C. section 2201 and Rule 57 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. Injunctive relief is authorized by 28 U.S.C. section 2203 and Rule 65 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.
- Venue is proper in the Northern District of California Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. section 1391(b)(2) in that the plaintiff resides and the unlawful conduct that gave rise to these claims occurred within the Northern District of California.

### INTRA-DISTRICT ASSIGNMENT

6. Intra-district assignment in San Francisco/Oakland, California is proper because the unlawful conduct that gives rise to the alleged claims occurred in Alameda County.

#### **PARTIES**

Plaintiff Krista O'Donovan ("O'Donovan") is a natural person and a resident of 7.

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4 (c)

8. Defendant CashCall, Inc. ("CashCall" or "Defendant") is a California Corporation. CashCall is and at all relevant times was engaged in making consumer loans in Alameda County and throughout California, and either was or should have been licensed by the California Department of Corporations as a California Finance Lender subject to the California Finance Lenders Law, California Financial Code section 22000 *et seq*.

Pleasanton, California. She borrowed money from Defendant CashCall, Inc. in Alameda County,

9. Defendants Does 1 through 50 are persons or entities whose true names and identities are now unknown to Plaintiff, and who therefore are sued by such fictitious names. Plaintiff will amend this complaint to allege the true names and capacities of these fictitiously named Defendants when they are ascertained. Each of the fictitiously named Defendants is responsible for the conduct alleged in this complaint, and Plaintiff's damages were actually and proximately caused by the conduct of the fictitiously named Defendants.

## **FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

# CashCall's Predatory Lending Scheme

- 10. CashCall lends to consumers in distress who have limited credit alternatives and are financially unable to repay CashCall's loans as the loan terms require. CashCall structures its loans so that they are effectively interest-only over much of the loan term. CashCall therefore requires consumers to pay its extremely high interest charges for several years, without any significant reduction in their loan balances.
- 11. CashCall engages in widespread TV broadcast advertising statewide aimed at financially strapped and financially desperate consumers.
- 12. CashCall's high interest rates, unfavorable loan terms, and protracted repayment time make it impossible for most consumers who fall prey to CashCall's advertisements to pay off their loans within any reasonable time period, even to pay their loans according to a schedule without defaulting. As the loan term drags on, CashCall secures its profit by collecting high interest payments, while the outstanding principal balance is barely reduced. CashCall pumps its customers'

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loan balances up by adding on late fees and insufficient fund charges. Once a customer falls behind in payments, CashCall turns to coercive collection practices to keep the customer paying and CashCall collecting. CashCall's website advertises its rates in California as follows: 13.

APR (Annual Percentage Rate) Loan amount \$2,600 Loan 99.25% \$5,075 Loan 70.08% \$10,000 Loan 59.46%

CashCall website, Rates for State of California, http://www.cashcall.com/General/Rates.aspx (as of June 18, 2008).

- Upon information and belief, CashCall lends to consumers over the Internet, with the 14. customer at a personal computer, using electronic signatures, document transmittals, and disclosures. CashCall uniformly requires consumers to apply for and execute loan documents electronically. Upon information and belief, a customer must have access to a personal computer in order to fill out and transmit the loan application and documentation forms required by CashCall in order to obtain a CashCall loan. CashCall does not lend money based on paper transactions.
- 15. The CashCall Promissory Note and Disclosure Statement relating to Plaintiff is a form document prepared exclusively by CashCall and presented to Plaintiff and the members of the public on a take- it-or-leave-it basis. CashCall has grossly disproportionate bargaining power vis-ávis consumers and dictates the terms of its loans and loan documents. CashCall allows no opportunity for negotiation. The customer must consent to all terms proposed by CashCall in order to obtain a loan from CashCall.
- 16. The CashCall Promissory Note and Disclosure Statement relating to the Plaintiff is a consumer contract of adhesion.
- 17. CashCall targets consumers experiencing serious, if not altogether desperate, financial challenges. Plaintiff has obtained a CashCall loan at an exorbitantly high interest rate and on such unfavorable loan terms because in her financial circumstances, credit alternatives on more

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favorable terms are not practically available to her in the marketplace.

- Plaintiff is informed and believes and on that basis alleges that CashCall has 18. systematically made her loan beyond her financial ability to repay in the time and manner provided in their CashCall Promissory Note and Disclosure Statement. CashCall does not consider a consumer's financial capacity to repay a loan in making loans.
- CashCall lent money to Plaintiff at an exorbitant interest rate, on an amortization schedule that requires her to repay CashCall at least twice the amount borrowed before substantially reducing principal, that requires her to repay CashCall from three to five times the amount of the loan, and that requires repayment over an inordinate length of time.
- The economic and emotional harm suffered by Plaintiff as a result of the 20. extraordinarily oppressive nature of CashCall loan terms greatly outweighs what value, if any, she received as a result of the initial CashCall loan.
- CashCall's Internet presentation to consumers of the CashCall loan application and 21. documentation forms required to obtain a CashCall loan, including the CashCall Promissory Note and Disclosure Statement, does not allow the consumer a fair opportunity to review the documents, as a borrower would ordinarily have if presented with a loan application and documentation forms in a paper format. Because the forms are presented in a constricted Internet browser window format, consumers do not have a fair opportunity to review the application forms and loan documentation before completing the loan application process. To the extent that CashCall may allow consumers to print these forms out before completing the application process, CashCall does not conspicuously disclose that option, or require that consumers do so and read the documents before completing the process.
- Plaintiff was presented with the CashCall Promissory Note and Disclosure Statement 22. in small bits and pieces on a computer screen. This presentation does not clearly and conspicuously present the rate of interest, the APR, the required Truth in Lending Disclosures, or the term of the loan. A reasonable consumer would not see, recognize, and understand these provisions due to the limitations of presentation on a computer screen.

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- The Internet presentation of the CashCall Promissory Note and Disclosure Statement 23. to Plaintiff is markedly one-sided. CashCall's Internet presentation does not bring home to consumers: (a) the length of time that CashCall loans are effectively interest only, that is, two to four years before there is any appreciable principal reduction, or (b) that the interest alone the consumer must pay typically costs three to five times the amount that the consumer receives from CashCall.
- Plaintiff, did not see, recognize, and/or understand these features of CashCall loans. Similarly, a reasonable consumer would not understand these features of CashCall loans. CashCall's Internet presentation of its loan application and documentation thus presents a distorted picture of the loans CashCall offers.
- 25. The Promissory Note and Disclosure Statement relating to the CashCall loan transactions of Plaintiff uniformly specifies a particular day of the month when CashCall is allowed to initiate and affect electronic fund transfers from customer accounts to collect installment payments and other amounts from Plaintiff.
- 26. Defendant has engaged and continues to engage in the business practice that, when Defendant fails to collect a loan installment payment or other charge through electronic fund transfer on the day agreed to and specified in a Promissory Note and Disclosure Statement, Defendant thereafter attempts to collect the installment payment and other charges on later days during the same installment cycle that were not agreed to or authorized by the customer.
- 27. Defendant has engaged and continues to engage in the business practice of conditioning the extension of credit on the customer's repayment by means of preauthorized electronic fund transfers. Defendant requires all customers to agree to a provision that permits CashCall to make electronic debits from their bank accounts.

#### CashCall's Debt Collection Scheme

- 28. Due to the exorbitantly high interest rates and unfavorable terms of CashCall loans, a significant number of CashCall customers default or make late payments on their CashCall loans.
  - 29. Upon information and belief, soon after a consumer defaults or misses a payment on a

CashCall loan, CashCall employees engage in aggressive collection efforts to recover the payment(s) and related fees.

- 30. In an effort to collect outstanding debts, Defendant has engaged and continues to engage in the business practice of making frequent and repeated harassing telephone calls, to both a consumer's residence and place of employment, up to multiple times a day, for days or weeks in a row, demanding payment of outstanding debt. During these phone calls, Defendant employs aggressive tactics, including abusive tone and language, harassing tone and language, and providing incorrect or misrepresentative information to convince consumers to make payments towards an outstanding debt.
- 31. In an effort to collect outstanding debts, Defendant has engaged and continues to engage in the business practice of contacting third parties, including employers, co-workers, neighbors, family members, friends, and other individuals, and communicates specific information about the debt owed, including private personal and financial information. Specifically, Defendant will engage in making phone calls using the following practices: (1) repeatedly calling consumers multiple times in one day, (2) threatening and intimidating consumers with lawsuits and other financial penalties, and (3) yelling, screaming, and shouting.
- 32. In its effort to collect debts, Defendant fails to orally, or in writing, provide proper notice of its debt collection activity, collection responsibilities, information about the debt owed, and consumers' rights.

### Plaintiff Krista O'Donovan

- 33. Plaintiff Krista O'Donovan borrowed \$5,000 from Defendant based on an annual percentage rate ("APR") of interest of 59.83%, according to CashCall's Promissory Note and Disclosure Statement. The stated total of payments to amortize this debt is \$30,161.86, or six times principal. The interest carry alone is over \$25,000, more than five times principal. A true and correct copy of the CashCall Promissory Note and Disclosure Statement applicable to Plaintiff's CashCall transaction is attached as Exhibit "A" to this Complaint.
  - 34. CashCall made a loan to Plaintiff beyond her financial ability to repay in the time and

- 35. As a result of CashCall's Internet presentation, Plaintiff did not print the terms of her loan prior to electronic signing and did not fully recognize or understand the loan terms and disclosures.
- 36. Defendant has initiated and/or effected electronic fund transfers of loan installments from the accounts of Plaintiff O'Donovan on days of the month other than those agreed to and specified by Plaintiff.
- 37. When Plaintiff's payment on her CashCall loan was late, even by one day, she received phone calls from CashCall employees attempting to collect her debt. The callers contacted her multiple times each day, aggressively demanded she make payments on her CashCall loan, and made other misrepresentations to her. She was yelled at and threatened by these callers. Additionally, CashCall contacted third parties in an attempt to collect her debt, including her family members and her friend.

## FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

For violation of the Electronic Fund Transfer Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1693 et seq. and Federal Reserve Regulation E, 12 C.F.R. § 205 et seq.

- 38. Plaintiff realleges each and every allegation above as if fully set forth in this Cause of Action.
- 39. Defendant has engaged and continues to engage in the business practice of initiating and effecting electronic fund transfers from customer accounts to collect payments on days of the month other than those agreed to and specified in the Promissory Note and Disclosure Statement.
- 40. These practices violate the Electronic Fund Transfer Act ("EFTA"), 15 U.S.C. section 1693 et seq., including 15 U.S.C. section 1693e and Regulation E, 12 C.F.R. section 205 et seq., promulgated by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.
- 41. Section 1693e(a) provides in relevant part: "A preauthorized electronic fund transfer from a consumer's account may be authorized by the consumer only in writing, and a copy of such authorization shall be provided to the consumer when made." Plaintiff gave CashCall

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preauthorization to initiate and effect electronic transfers on the first of the month. CashCall's initiation of electronic fund transfers from Plaintiff's accounts on days of the month other than the first violates section 1693e(a) and Regulation E because transfers on unspecified dates are not in compliance with section 1693e(a).

- 42. These practices violate the EFTA, including 15 U.S.C. section 1693e and Regulation E promulgated by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, and constitute systematic breaches of the CashCall Promissory Note and Disclosure Statement in violation of 15 U.S.C. section 45(n) and the Federal Trade Commission Policy Statement on Unfairness, Letter from Wendell H. Ford & John C. Danforth to Senate members of the Consumer Subcommittee of the U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation (Dec. 17, 1980), appended to International Harvester Co., 104 F.T.C. 949, 1070 (1984).
- 43. Defendant has engaged and continues to engage in the business practice of conditioning the extension of credit on the customer's repayment by means of preauthorized electronic fund transfers. Defendant requires all customers, including Plaintiff, to agree to a provision that permit CashCall to make electronic debits from their bank account.
- These practices violate the EFTA, including 15. U.S.C. section 1693k and 44. Regulation E promulgated by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System. Section 1693k(1) states in pertinent part: "No person may . . . condition the extension of credit to a consumer on such consumer's repayment by means of preauthorized electronic fund transfers; ..."
- Defendant has engaged and continues to engage in the business practice of limiting 45. consumers rights to cancel or stop payment of a the preauthorized electronic fund transfer by requiring all customers to agree, including Plaintiff, to the following provision as a condition of a CashCall loan, "I understand that I can cancel this authorization at any time (including prior to my first payment due date) by sending written notification to CashCall. Cancellations must be received at least seven days prior to the applicable due date."
- 46. These practices violate the EFTA, including 15 U.S.C. section 1693e(a) and Regulation E promulgated by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System which permits

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a consumer to stop payment of a preauthorized electronic fund transfer by notifying either orally or in writing up to three business days prior to the scheduled date of the transfer.

- 47. As a direct and proximate result of these violations, Plaintiff was and continues to be damaged in an amount according to proof, including, without limitation, statutory damages and actual damages, such as payments of interest and other charges collected by Defendant and emotional distress damages.
- 48. Pursuant to 15 U.S.C. section 1693 et seq., Plaintiff is entitled to recover actual damages sustained as a result of Defendant's violations of EFTA, in an amount to be determined at trial, statutory damages, and attorneys fees and costs in accordance with 15 U.S.C. section 1693m.

# SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION

Violation of Consumer Legal Remedies Act, California Civil Code § 1750 et seg.

- 49. Plaintiff realleges each and every allegation above as if fully set forth in this Cause of Action.
- 50. The Consumer Legal Remedies Act ("CLRA"), California Civil Code section 1750 et seq., specifically provides that "[a]ny waiver by a consumer of the provisions of this title is contrary to public policy and shall be unenforceable and void." Cal. Civ. Code § 1751.
- 51. Defendant has violated section 1770(a)(5) of the CLRA by representing that the goods and services it provides have characteristics and benefits which they do not have, including without limitation, failing to adequately disclose the terms of the loan and promising loan benefits which are not accurate nor realistic based on the terms of the loan.
- 52. Defendant has violated section 1770(a)(14) of the CLRA by representing that it has rights and remedies that are prohibited by law, specifically that they have the right to collect debts without providing notices required by law, that they have the right to charge an APR not incompliance with TILA, that they have the right to collect debts without providing notices required by law, and that they have the right to collect debts in a manner prohibited by the EFTA and the Rosenthal Act.
  - 53. Defendant has violated section 1770(a)(19) of the CLRA by including the unfair and

unconscionable loan terms, including unconscionable usury rates and an unconscionable Internet
presentation of the loan, in their loan agreements. Defendant possesses bargaining strength and
power far superior to that of Plaintiff and other customers. Without discussion or negotiation,
Defendant offers standardized form contracts, drafted by Defendant, which are contracts of adhesion
because they are offered on a take-it-or-leave-it basis. The loan agreement is substantially one-sided
in favor of Defendant. It is, therefore, unlawful, unfair, fraudulent, and unconscionable.

- 54. As a result of the unfair and deceptive acts and practices of Defendants herein above described. Plaintiff has been harmed.
- 55. Pursuant to California Civil Code sections 1780 and 1781, Plaintiff hereby requests, injunctive relief and attorney's fees, costs and expenses pursuant to California Civil Code section 1780(d) and California Code of Civil Procedure section 1021.5.

# THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION Violation of the Rosenthal Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, Cal. Civ. Code § 1788 et seq.

- 56. Plaintiff realleges each and every allegation above as if fully set forth in this Cause of Action.
- 57. The Rosenthal Fair Debt Collection Practices Act ("Rosenthal Act"), Civil Code section 1788 *et seq.*, prohibits unfair and deceptive acts and practices in the collection of consumer debts.
- 58. Defendant, in the regular course of business, engages in debt collection and is a "debt collector" as defined by California Civil Code section 1788.2(c).
- 59. By its acts and practices as hereinabove described, Defendant has violated the Rosenthal Act and the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act ("FDCPA"), 15 U.S.C. section 1692 et seq., as incorporated by California Civil Code section 1788.17, as follows, without limitation:
  - a. Unlawfully communicating with third parties, including, without limit, employers and family members, and communicating information in regards to the debt owed by the consumer to third parties.
  - b. Engaging in conduct of which the natural result was harassment, annoyance and abuse.

- c. Using deceit and misrepresentation in communications.
- d. Collection of amounts not authorized by agreement with the consumer.
- e. By failing to include certain debt collection notices required by law.
- 60. Pursuant to California Civil Code sections 1788.30 and 1788.17 (incorporating 15 U.S.C. section 1692 *et seq.*), Plaintiff is entitled to recover actual damages sustained as a result of Defendant's violations of the Rosenthal Act. Such damages include, without limitation, resulting monetary losses and damages, and emotional distress suffered, which damages are in an amount to be proven at trial.
- 61. In addition, pursuant to California Civil Code sections 1788.30 and 1788.17 (incorporating 15 U.S.C. section 1692 *et seq.*), because Defendant's violations of the Rosenthal Act were committed willingly and knowingly, Plaintiff is entitled to recover, in addition to actual damages, penalties of at least \$1,000 per violation as provided for in the Rosenthal Act.
- 62. Pursuant to California Civil Code sections 1788.30 and 1788.17 (incorporating 15 U.S.C. section 1692 *et seq.*), Plaintiff is entitled to recover all attorney's fees, costs, and expenses incurred in the bringing of this action.

# For Violations the Truth in Lending Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1601 et seq. and Federal Reserve Regulation Z, 12 C.F.R. § 226 et seq.

- 63. Plaintiff realleges each and every allegation above as if fully set forth in this Cause of Action.
- 64. At all times relevant hereto, Defendant CashCall regularly extended and offered to extend credit for which a finance charge is or may be imposed or which, by written agreement, is payable in more than four installments, and is the business to which the transactions that are the subject of this action are initially payable, making CashCall a creditor within the meaning of the Truth in Lending Act ("TILA"), 15 U.S.C. section 1601 *et seq.*, as implemented by Regulation Z, 12 C.F.R. section 226 *et seq.* 
  - 65. In making a loan to Plaintiff, Defendant violated the requirements of the TILA and

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- Regulation Z, promulgated by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, in disclosures contained in CashCall Promissory Note and Disclosure Statement relating to CashCall's loan to Plaintiff.
- 66. Defendant violated the requirements of TILA and Regulation Z in making a loan to Plaintiff by failing to include in the finance charge certain charges imposed by Defendant payable to Plaintiff incident to the extension of credit as required by 15 U.S.C. section 1605 and Regulation Z, thus improperly disclosing the finance charge.
- 67. CashCall's Internet presentation of its loan application and documentation is a violation of TILA disclosure requirements because it did not adequately allow Plaintiff to take possession of and review the documents in their entirety prior to signing.
- 68. As a direct and proximate result of these violations, Plaintiff was and continues to be damaged in an amount according to proof, but not yet ascertained including, without limitation, statutory damages, actual damages, and all amounts paid or to be paid in connection with the transaction, excluding principal payments, if any.
- 69. CashCall was unjustly enriched at the expense of Plaintiff who is, therefore, entitled to equitable restitution and disgorgement of profits obtained by CashCall.
- 70. The acts of CashCall were willful, wanton, and in conscious disregard of Plaintiff's rights and, therefore, Plaintiff is entitled to recover punitive damages in an amount to be established at trial.
- 71. Pursuant to 15 U.S.C. section 1640, Plaintiff is entitled to recover actual damages sustained as a result of Defendant's violations of TILA in an amount to be determined at trial, statutory damages, punitive damages, and attorney's fees and costs in accordance with 15 U.S.C. section 1640.

### FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION

For Unlawful Business Practices in Violation of Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17200 et seq.

72. Plaintiff realleges each and every allegation above as if fully set forth in this Cause of

73. The California Unfair Competition Law ("UCL"), California Business and Profession Code section 17200 *et seq.*, defines unfair competition to include any "unlawful," "unfair," or "deceptive" business act or practice. Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17200.

74. Defendant's business practices in making and colleting loans are unlawful business practices in violation of California Business and Professions Code section 17200 *et seq.* because they violate, without limitation, the California Finance Lenders Law which regulates lending practices in California and California Civil Code section 1670.5 governing unconscionability in contracts, as well as the TILA, EFTA, the Rosenthal Act, and the CLRA, as described above.

### Violations of California Finance Lenders Law

- 75. In making a loan to Plaintiff, Defendant violated and continues to violate California Financial Code section 22332 by inaccurately stating the annual percentage rate ("APR") in the Truth in Lending Disclosure portion of the CashCall Promissory Note and Disclosure Statement relating to CashCall's loan to Plaintiff.
- 76. The APR percentages and finance charge stated in these disclosures are not accurate in compliance with the disclosures mandated by Regulation Z promulgated by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, as required by California Financial Code section 22332.
- 77. In making a loan to Plaintiff, Defendant violated and continues to violate California Financial Code section 22302 by making loans at rates of interest and on other terms that are unconscionable in light of the financial circumstances of the borrower.
- 78. In making a loan to Plaintiff over the Internet, CashCall's disclosures of rates of interest, Truth in Lending Disclosure, and other loan terms are inconspicuous and insufficient. A reasonable consumer would not see, recognize, and understand these provisions due to the limitations of presentation on a computer screen. As a result of a presentation of loan terms and disclosures in an unconscionable format, Defendant violated California Financial Code section 22302.
  - 79. In making and administering its loan to Plaintiff, Defendant willfully violated

- 81. These practices are an unlawful business practice in violation of California Financial Code section 22320. Section 22320 provides in relevant part: "[A] fee not to exceed fifteen dollars (\$15) for the return by a depository institution of a dishonored check, negotiable order of withdrawal, or share draft may be charged and collected by the licensee." California Financial Code section 22320.
- 82. Defendant has engaged and continues to engage in the business practice of collecting insufficient fund fees whenever Defendant's requests for an electronic fund transfer of a loan installment payment or other charge from a customer account is not satisfied.
- 83. Defendant has charged and collected at least one insufficient fund fee of \$15 from Plaintiff based on attempted electronic fund transfers initiated by Defendant in order to obtain payment of installments and other charges from Plaintiff's bank account.
- 84. Section 22320 allows insufficient fund fees only in the case of dishonored checks and similar written payment instruments returned unpaid by depository institutions. In making and administering its loan to Plaintiff, Defendant willfully violated California Financial Code section 22320.

# Violation of Prohibition Against Unconscionable Contracts

85. The loan made to Plaintiff is void and not enforceable because it is unconscionable in violation of California Civil Code section 1670.5.

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- 86. In making a loan to Plaintiff, Defendant made a loan at rates of interest and on other terms which are unconscionable in light of the financial circumstances of the Plaintiff.
- 87. In making and administering its loan to Plaintiff, Defendant willfully violated California Civil Code section 1670.5.

# **Violations of Additional Laws**

- 88. In addition to the violations described above, Defendant's business practices violated the EFTA, the Rosenthal Act, and the CLRA.
- 89. Defendant violated California Business and Professions Code section 17200 *et seq.* by violating each of these laws.
- 90. As a result of these violations and unlawful business practices, Plaintiff suffered injury in fact and lost money and property, including but not limited to payments of interest and other charges collected by Defendant on loan made in violation of these laws.
- 91. Pursuant to California Business and Professions Code section 17200 et seq., Plaintiff is entitled to enjoin the practice of making unconscionable loan, of harassing debt collection, and to obtain restitution of all funds obtained by Defendant by reason of and through the use of these unlawful, unfair, or fraudulent acts and practices.
- 92. Pursuant to California Business and Professions Code section 17203, Plaintiff, hereby requests injunctive relief prohibiting these practices in the future, and such other orders as may be necessary to restore to any person in interest, any money or property, real or personal, which may have been acquired by Defendant by means of this unlawful, unfair and fraudulent business practice, or to disgorge profits Defendant has earned thereby.
- 93. Pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure section 1021.5, Plaintiff is entitled to recover her reasonable attorney's fees, costs, and expenses incurred in bringing this action.

#### SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION

# For Unlawful Business Practices in Violation of Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17200 et seq.

94. Plaintiff realleges each and every allegation above as if fully set forth in this Cause of Action.

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- 95. The California Unfair Competition Law ("UCL"), California Business and Profession Code section 17200, et seq., defines unfair competition to include any "unlawful," "unfair," or "deceptive" business act or practice. Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17200.
- 96. Plaintiff challenges Defendant's unfair practice of making loan with unconscionable loan terms and interest rates.
- 97. Defendant's practices are unfair, unconscionable, and fraudulent business practices for the reasons set forth below:
  - i. Defendant's business practices in making and collecting loans at exorbitant interest rates, on amortization schedules that require borrowers to repay CashCall at least twice the amount borrowed before reducing substantial principal, that require borrowers to repay CashCall from three to five times the amount of the loan, and that require repayment over an inordinate amount of time, offends public policy, are unconscionable, oppressive and unscrupulous, and cause substantial injury to consumers;
  - Defendant engages in predatory lending practices including, but not limited to,
     the use of high pressure sales tactics and failing to consider a consumer's
     ability to repay a loan;
  - iii. Defendant fails to provide accurate notices and disclosures required by TILA and the California Finance Lenders Law; and
  - iv. Defendant deceives and misleads consumers when it induces consumers to sign a Promissory Note and Disclosure Statement through an Internet presentation which is one sided and does not effectively communicate to a reasonable consumer the critical terms of the loan.
- 98. Defendant's business practices violate the legislatively declared policy and spirit reflected in the EFTA, TILA, California Finance Lenders Law, and the Rosenthal Act, and have the same effect as a violation of these statutes.
  - 99. As a result of these violations and unfair business practices, Plaintiff suffered injury

in fact and lost money and property, including but not limited to payments of interest and other charges collected by Defendant on loan made in violation of these laws.

- 100. Pursuant to California Business and Professions Code section 17200, et seq., Plaintiff is entitled to enjoin the practice of making unconscionable loan, of harassing debt collection, and to obtain restitution of all funds obtained by Defendant by reason of and through the use of these unlawful, unfair, or fraudulent acts and practices.
- 101. Pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure section 1021.5, Plaintiff is entitled to recover her reasonable attorney's fees, costs, and expenses incurred in bringing this action.

# SEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION For Unlawful Business Practices in Violation of Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17200 et seq.

- 102. Plaintiff realleges each and every allegation above as if fully set forth in this Cause of Action.
- 103. The California Unfair Competition Law ("UCL"), California Business and Profession Code section 17200 *et seq.*, defines unfair competition to include any "unlawful," "unfair," or "deceptive" business act or practice. Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17200.
- 104. Plaintiff challenges Defendant's deceptive practice of making loans with unconscionable loan terms and interest rates.
- 105. Defendant's practices are likely to deceive consumers in that they fail to accurately and fairly represent the characteristics and benefits of the loans they provide, they represent that they have rights and remedies prohibited by law, and they rely on predatory lending tactics.
- 106. As a result of these violations and fraudulent business practices, Plaintiff suffered injury in fact and lost money and property, including but not limited to payments of interest and other charges collected by Defendant on loan made in violation of these laws.
- 107. Pursuant to California Business and Professions Code section 17200 et seq., Plaintiff is entitled to enjoin the practice of making unconscionable loan, of harassing debt collection and to obtain restitution of all funds obtained by Defendant by reason of and through the use of these unlawful, unfair, or fraudulent acts and practices.

108. Pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure section 1021.5, Plaintiff is entitled to recover her reasonable attorney's fees, costs, and expenses incurred in bringing this action.

## RELIEF SOUGHT

Plaintiff requests relief as follows:

- 1. A declaration of the rights of Plaintiff with respect to Defendant under the California Finance Lenders Law and its regulations, an accounting to bring her loan into compliance with the California Finance Lenders Law and its regulations, restitution of all monies collected and/or charged by Defendant from Plaintiff in violation of the California Finance Lenders Law and its regulations with prejudgment interest to date, and injunctive relief against Defendant threatened and ongoing violations of the California Finance Lenders Law and its regulations, as more particularly set forth above:
- 2. Restitution of all monies wrongfully charged to and/or collected from Plaintiff in violation of California Business and Professions Code section 17200 et seq. with prejudgment interest to date, and injunctive relief against Defendant for violations of section 17200, as more particularly set forth above;
  - 3. Actual and statutory damages for violations of TILA, EFTA, and the Rosenthal Act.
  - 4. Punitive damages according to proof at trial;
  - 5. Attorneys fees and expenses of litigation to the extent provided by law;
  - 6. Costs of suit; and
  - 7. Such other and further legal and equitable relief as this Court may deem proper.

# **DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL**

Plaintiff hereby demands a trial by jury of each and every cause of action so triable.

DATED: July 1, 2008

THE STURDEVANT LAW FIRM

A Professional Corporation

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MONIQUE OLIVIER

Attorney's for Plaintiff Krista O'Donovan

# **EXHIBIT A**



QUESTIONS? Call Us at 866-590-CASH | En Español



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# Signed Document

Sign Time: October 17, 2005 10:22 AM

**Loan Document** 

#### CASHCALL PROMISSORY NOTE AND DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Account No: 103219

Lender: Address: CashCall, Inc. 17360 Brookhurst Street

Fountain Valley, CA 92708

Date of Note: 10/17/2005

Borrower:

KRISTA R O'DONOVAN

**美国的国际** 

#### TRUTH IN LENDING DISCLOSURE

# ANNUAL PERCENTAGE

The cost of your credit as a yearly rate 59.83 %

# **FINANCE** CHARGE

The dollar amount the credit will cost YOU

\$25,161.86

#### **AMOUNT** FINANCED

The amount of credit provided to YOU

\$5,000.00

## TOTAL OF PAYMENTS

The amount you will have paid after all payments are made as scheduled

\$30,161.86

#### **PAYMENT SCHEDULE**

You will make one payment of \$375.07 on 12/1/2005.

You will make 119 monthly payments of \$250.31 beginning on 1/1/2006.

Late Charge: If a payment is late, you will be charged \$15.

Prepayment: If you pay off this loan early, you will not have to pay any penalty.

Please see the remainder of this document for additional information about nonpayment, default and any required repayment in full before the scheduled date.

ITEMIZA	TION OF AMOUNT FINANCED		•
Amount Financed:	\$5,000.00		
Amount Paid to Borrower Directly:	\$5,000.00		

Prepaid Finance Charge/Origination Fee: |\$75.00

In this Promissory Note & Disclosure Statement ("Note"), the words "I" and "me" mean the person signing as a borrower. The boxed-in disclosures above are part of the terms and conditions of your agreement with us.

FOR VALUE RECEIVED, I promise to pay to the order of CashCall, Inc., or any subsequent holder of this Note (the "Holder"), the sum of \$5,075.00, together with interest calculated at 59.00 % and any outstanding charges or late fees, until the full amount of this Note is paid.

I understand that my payments will be applied first to any outstanding charges or late fees, then to earned interest and finally to principal. The payment schedule described above is only an estimate and may change in the event you do not make all payments as scheduled.

I understand that I may prepay all or any part of the principal without penalty.

I understand that I will be subject to a fee not to exceed the legally permitted amount if any payment I make is returned for non-sufficient funds.

I understand that if I fail to make any payment due hereunder, the Holder of this Note shall have the right, after a 30-day grace period, to declare this Note to be immediately due and payable. I further understand that if I file for an assignment for the benefit of creditors, bankruptcy, or for relief under any provisions of the United States Bankruptcy Code, the Holder of this Note shall have the right to declare this Note to be immediately due and payable.

I understand that in the event that Holder is required to employ an attorney at law to collect any amounts due under this Note, I will be required to pay the reasonable fees of such attorney to protect the interest of Holder or to take any other action required to collect the amounts due hereunder.

I agree that all payments not made within fifteen (15) days of the due date shall be subject to a late fee of \$15. Any late fee assessed shall be collected by the Holder on behalf of the Holder and shall inure to the exclusive benefit of the Holder.

The origination fee included in the prepaid finance charge/origination fee disclosed above is fully earned upon loan origination, is not subject to rebate upon prepayment or acceleration of this Note and is not considered interest.

The Holder of this Note may delay or forgo enforcing any of its rights or remedies under this Note without losing them. I hereby, to the extent allowed by law, waive any applicable statute of limitations, presentment, demand for payment, or protest and notice of dishonor. Upon any change in the terms of this Note, and unless otherwise expressly stated in writing, no party who signs this Note, whether as maker, guarantor, accommodation maker or endorser, shall be released from liability.

The rights of Holder hereof shall be cumulative and not necessarily successive. This Note shall take effect as a sealed instrument and shall be construed, governed and enforced in accordance with the laws of the State of California.

This Note is in original format an electronic document fully compliant with the Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce Act (E-SIGN) and other applicable laws and regulations, and that the one, true original Note is retained electronically by Holder on behalf of Holder. All other versions hereof, whether electronic or in tangible format, constitute facsimiles or reproductions only.

I understand that I have previously consented to receive all communications from the Holder, including but not limited to, all required disclosures via electronic mail.

I understand and agree that CashCall, Inc. may obtain credit reports on me an ongoing basis as long as this loan remains in effect. I also authorize CashCall, Inc. to report information concerning my account to credit bureaus and anyone else it believes in good faith has a legitimate need for such information.

NOTE TO CALIFORNIA BORROWERS: A married or registered domestic partner applicant may apply for a separate account. As required by law, you are hereby notified that a negative credit report reflecting on your credit record may be submitted to a credit reporting agency if you fail to fulfill the terms of your credit obligations. If Holder takes any adverse action as defined by Section 1785.3 of the California Civil Code and the adverse action is based, in whole or in part, on any information contained in a consumer credit report, you have the right to obtain within 60 days a free copy of your consumer credit report from the consumer reporting agency who furnished us vour consumer credit report and from any other consumer credit reporting agency which compiles and maintains files on consumers on a nationwide basis. You have the right as described by Section 1785.16 of the California Civil Code to dispute the accuracy or completeness of any information in a consumer credit report furnished by the consumer credit reporting agency.

THIS LOAN CARRIES A VERY HIGH INTEREST RATE. YOU MAY BE ABLE TO OBTAIN CREDIT UNDER MORE FAVORABLE TERMS ELSEWHERE. EVEN THOUGH THE TERM OF THE LOAN IS 120 MONTHS, WE STRONGLY ENCOURAGE YOU TO PAY OFF THE LOAN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO PAY OFF ALL OR ANY PORTION OF THE LOAN AT ANY TIME WITHOUT INCURRING ANY PENALTY. YOU WILL, HOWEVER, BE REQUIRED TO PAY ANY AND ALL INTEREST THAT HAS ACCRUED FROM THE FUNDING DATE UNTIL THE PAYOFF DATE. 工作 翻集 化氯化氢硫酸钠医氯化氢磺酸

The state of the s I CERTIFY THAT NO PERSON HAS PERFORMED ANY ACT AS A BROKER IN CONNECTION WITH THE MAKING OF THIS LOAN. WITH THE MAKING OF THIS LOAN. I ATTEST THAT THE CHECK SUBMITTED FOR APPROVAL OF MY LOAN IS FROM A LEGAL, OPEN AND ACTIVE ACCOUNT. THE CHECK IS NOT ALTERED, FORGED, STOLEN OR 1 OBTAINED THROUGH FRAUDULENT OR ILLEGAL MEANS. I ATTEST THAT (1) THE PAY STUB THAT I SUBMITTED FOR APPROVAL OF MY LOAN IS A VALID STUB FROM A JOB THAT I CURRENTLY HOLD AND THE STUB HAS NOT BEEN 1 ALTERED OR FORGED IN ANY WAY; OR (2) I WAS NOT REQUIRED TO SUBMIT A PAY STUB TO OBTAIN MY LOAN. I HAVE READ ALL OF THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THIS PROMISSORY NOTE AND DISCLOSURE STATEMENT AND AGREE TO BE BOUND THERETO, I UNDERSTAND AND AGREE THAT MY EXECUTION OF THIS NOTE SHALL HAVE THE SAME LEGAL FORCE AND EFFECT AS A PAPER CONTRACT.

> THIS LOAN IS MADE PURSUANT TO THE CALIFORNIA FINANCE LENDER LAW. FOR INFORMATION, CONTACT THE DEPARTMENT OF CORPORATIONS, STATE OF CALIFORNIA, LICENSE NO. 603-8780.

#### **ELECTRONIC FUNDS AUTHORIZATION AND DISCLOSURE**

I hereby authorize CashCall to withdraw my scheduled loan payment from my checking account on or about the FIRST day of each month. I further authorize CashCall to adjust this withdrawal to reflect any additional fees, charges or credits to my account. I understand that CashCall will notify me 10 days prior to any given transfer if the amount to be transferred varies by more than \$50 from my regular payment amount. I understand that this authorization and the services undertaken by CashCall in no way alters or lessens my obligations under the loan agreement. I

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understand that I can cancel this authorization at any time (including prior to my first payment due date) by sending written notification to CashCall. Cancellations must be received at least seven days prior to the applicable due date.

I UNDERSTAND CASHCALL'S PAYMENT COLLECTION POLICY AND AUTHORIZE ELECTRONIC DEBITS FROM MY BANK ACCOUNT.

Click here to print out a copy of this document for your records.

> Sign Document

Loans made to residents of California, Idaho, New Mexico, and Utah will be underwritten and funded by CashCalf. Loans made to residents of all other states (excluding Iowa, Massachusetts, Nevada, New Jersey, New York, West Virginia and Wisconsin) will be underwritten and funded by First Bank of Delaware (Member FDIC).







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